Oklahoma Chess Monthly

SEPTEMBER 2018

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Hot Wheels® Checkmate Collection

Oklahoma's representatives at the U.S. Open playing in the national tournaments did well, led by Veronika Zilajeva who won the National Girls Tournament of Champions. We have a full report this month plus many other features and games.

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• Zilajeva Wins NGOTC
• Bob Dylan
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• Chess Warriors
• Okies in St. Louis
• Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Zilajeva wins NGTOC

Oklahoma Representatives Perform Well at the U.S. Open's Invitational Tournaments of Champions

The USCF now runs four national "tournaments of champions" each year concurrent with the U.S. Open, which pit one representative of each state in a championship tournament in specific categories. First the original Denker Tournament of High School Champions was held with a 6-round swiss among the top HS players from each state. Then came the Barber event for players of Grade 8 or below, and the National Girls Tournament. This year at the U.S. Open (July 28-Aug 5 in Madison, Wisconsin) a new event was added – the National Seniors Tournament of Champions.

The Oklahoma representatives did quite well,

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led by Veronika Zilajeva, who impressively won the prestigious National Girls Tournament of Champions with a 5½/6 score. She had tied for first in 2015 but this time won it clear, in her last year of eligibility.

Veronika Zilajeva receives her prize at the crowded closing ceremony, with Chuck Unruh (OSCO and USCF officer) looking on. (Photo: Mark Hulsey)

Chess Life Online published a nice interview of her by Jennifer Shahade here, https://new.uschess.org/news/veronicaqa/

…in which she talks about her love of chess, basketball, etc., and her intention to go to USC next year to study engineering. Hopefully she will be able to continue her chess hobby in school and after.

Veronika in play in round 6 on board 1

Zilajeva says about the event, "I am extremely happy that I had the opportunity to play at such high level tournament. I knew, even before the tournament started, that it would be a challenge. Since I was only 11th seed, I had to give the credit to each opponent that I faced. Of course, first two games were not as hard, but starting from round 3 and after I had to prepare for each round very thoroughly. Because I wanted to surprise my opponents, I had to play openings that I have never previously played (or have played, but a very long time ago)."

Below in the "Games" section are two key games from her event, with annotations by Veronika. Page 17.

(Kansas representative Sheena Zeng did well also, finishing tied for 7th with 4 points. Arkansas rep Isabella Elkins had 2.)

IM Advait Patel was Oklahoma's representative at the Denker again this year. Patel had won the Barber (K-8) championship twice and finished 2nd previously in the Denker, but this year crashed and burned under the pressure of this 6-round swiss which gives little room for error when usually a 5½ score is required to take 1st. He finished with 3½. This came on the heels of his fine 2nd place finish in the U.S. Junior Invitational, an even tougher tournament, and a busy Summer.

(Kansas rep NM Joey Kelly did quite well with 3½ in this tough field, including a draw with Craig Hilby (2483), and Arkansas rep Oscar She had 3).

Ryan Amburgy performed well in the Barber K-8 tournament for Oklahoma finishing in a tie for 14th with a 3½ score despite being in the middle of the strong rating list. He continues to improve along with several other Okie youngsters and is a player to watch. (Kansas rep Cael Province had 3 pts., while Arkansas rep Ricardo Rivera finished with 2).

Fifth Place Overall

Overall, in the state "team" standings for these scholastic youngsters as a group, Oklahoma finished in a tie for 5th place with New York! Oklahoma was the only small state to score in the top 10 for the state standings.

Zilajeva-Ambrugy-Patel with C. Unruh (Source: OSCO Facebook)

Credit for the fine showing by the Oklahoma scholastic team in these three events has to go to OSCO (Oklahoma Scholastic Chess Organization) and its volunteer teachers and parents, who give lots of time to introduce kids to chess here and have sent competitive teams to these events for years now.

Kansas also did well as a state, finishing in a tie for 11th in the country. Arkansas was 35th.

National Seniors Tournament of Champions
An Inaugural Event

A new event of this type was added this year for seniors, age 50+, again with one rep from each state, and there was a lot of interest in how competitive it would be. With four GMs and many strong titled masters coming to play, that question was soon put to rest.

The winner was GM Alex Fishbein, who, amazingly enough, was also the winner of the inaugural Denker High School championship back in 1985! (And guess who was the only person to nick him for a draw back then? Oklahoma's Steve Harrington!)

GM Michael Rohde said there was "a great tone of friendliness which persisted throughout the event" as these senior warriors battled each other again, many of whom had been competitors in their youth.

Oklahoma's representative NM Mark Hulsey, coming back to competition after a long layoff due to his busy medical career, had a respectable score of 3/6, although he was disappointed in having let a couple of winning positions slip away to draws.

Hulsey remarks, "I had two wins that were good games. The two Pircs I lost playing white almost caused me to quit chess and reread Camus' *Myth of Sisyphus*. …

The 5th round I played a nice game as black, but eschewed a winning maneuver for an exciting B sacrifice that, alas, only drew.

The last round I had black again and defended a Grunfeld nicely, having a win at the penultimate position, but was tired and just couldn't force myself to look beyond the perpetual."

The event was strong, with 24 experienced NMs, FMs, and GMs among the competitors.

Arkansas rep NM Tony Davis did very well, finishing in a tie for 7th with 4 points.

Hongbiao Zheng (Sheena's dad), the Kansas rep, had 2 points.

Some Hulsey games are presented in the Games section, below. Page 17.

Bob Dylan: Paid with Chess

The great singer-songwriter was known to be a novice chess player. In song lyrics he told this funny little story about singing in a chess coffee house in East Orange, New Jersey:

EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY by Bob Dylan

First time I ever worked in East Orange, New Jersey --
Folks, never go to East Orange, New Jersey,
It's a horrible town.
I once had to play in a coffeehouse out there.
It was so bad -- uh -- so bad,
People playing chess out there -- uh –
It's all they thought about
Was chess 'n' chess 'n' chess.
People come up to me
You play a song, you play a real quiet song'
In the middle of the song ya hear "check"
And "Hey, that was a good move"
And all kinds of stuff like that.

Yes, folks, it was so bad I had a little dream out there
The first night I worked,
About this chess playing stuff.
I dreamed I went to work out in East Orange, New Jersey,
And -- uh -- about the time I quit in two days
I went there to ask the guy for my money,
"I worked two days for you"
He says, "Uh, well, o.k., we don't pay money around here, though."
I says, "Uh, yeah?"
He says, "Uh, well"
He says, "Uh, we pay chessmen."
I said, "Uh, well, gimme my chessmen then. I worked for two days."
I was sort of -- didn't really figure –
I thought he was lying at first,
But I took it anyway.
He gave me a king and a queen for working two days.
I says, "Uh, fine, that's o.k."
So I took my king and queen, went down to a bar, the nearest bar I could find.
I walked in the bar and ordered a pint.
Down the bar, the bartender,
I says, "Can I have a pint?"
I'll be damned, he give me a pint.
He asks me for the money,
I gave him my king and queen.
I'll be damned; he took that king and queen,
Threw it under the counter,
And brought me out four pawns, two bishops, and a rook for change.

Little story about East Orange, New Jersey.

—Bob Dylan

source : https://lyricsplayground.com/alpha/songs/e/eastorangenewjersey.shtml

Tulsa Quads 2

"Carlson just trolled Caruana!"

That was the news that came from the skittles room during round 2 into the tournament hall. TD Harold Brown had set up a big screen TV with live coverage of the Sinquefield Cup and in particular of the Carlsen – Caurana matchup in round 7 which was underway. (See the related story, *Okies in St. Louis,* page 10.) It had a fairly big crowd of 10-15 spectators, including players in-between moves from the Quads tournament.

Carlson had just given the "Shhh" signal, as a hip way to "silence the haters" and say, "I got this now!" at a point where he thought he was winning.

Our Caruana fans were incensed! Caruana was indeed on the ropes, but he found some brilliant defense, Carlsen missed the best line, and soon the game ended in a draw… but only after Caruana made Carlsen be the one to offer it with three-fold repetition. Carlsen's gesture had backfired on him.

Harold's innovation of the big-screen TV watch event combined with a chess tournament proved popular, and we plan to do something similar again this November with the Carlsen - Caruana world championship match. Stay tuned for that.

Meanwhile the games going on in the tournament room were just as hard-fought, if not as dramatic.

The "quads" tournament of 4-player round robins with a rapid time control (G/45+15) is a great form of "practice tournament." Tulsa Quads 2 was held August 25, 2018, at the Harvard Ave Baptist Church (17th and Harvard) in Tulsa, which is becoming a popular place for such events and we will be using it more in the future.

$50 was the prize offered in each section.

Quad A was a strong section that ended in a 3-way tie between Tom Braunlich, Joe Veal and James Long. All had 2-1 scores.

Quad B featured hot young players Ryan Amburgy and Naren Pullela, both 1900s. But Pullela was upset by Adam Bulleigh in round 2, and the group ended in a tie between Ryan and veteran Chris Dooley at 2-1 each.

Quad C saw Oscar Wang run the table with 3-0 and raise his rating near 1700. Look out for him. Jerry Wells of Eureka Springs, AR, also did well in this group with a 2-1 score.

Quad D was a tie between Istvan Szabad and Zachary Winn with 2-1.

Of note in this later group was the participation of David W. Beebe, who last played in tournaments in the 1970s in the Tulsa area! Welcome him as a new old member…

Finally a Swiss was played to form the 5th group, and it featured several good young players. However it was adult player Brent Reed who won it 3-0, with Liko Ironherron 2nd place with 2½.

Full crosstables here online:

http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201808252202.1-10386161

New TD Harold Brown did a great job, and provided drinks and refreshments, as well as spending hours beforehand setting up the TV internet connection. Thanks Harold.

Hot Wheels: Checkmate

by Tom Braunlich

Chess and toy cars — is that a thing?

Well it is now… as part of its 50th anniversary for *Hot Wheels*®, Mattel has come out with several new series for collectors, including the "Checkmate" series of chess-themed cars.

"Chessboard challengers that rule the squares … and the track."

The series is of nine popular cars that have been given graphics of chess pieces and pawns, and come in "black" and "white" versions, for a total of 18 cars in the collection. The series is mainly meant for Hot Wheels collectors, but chess players may enjoy trying to collect them too. Tulsa player Chris Walker, who first alerted me to them, has been going around to toy stores and Wal-Marts searching to complete his collection and is one black Beetle "Pawn" away from doing so.

For background, the original Hot Wheels cars first came out in 1968 with 16 cars that included not only cool "muscle cars" of the day like Camaros and Mustangs, but also some exotic dream cars as well like the Deora and Cheetah. As a little kid I owned a few of them myself. Here is the original "sweet sixteen" as they are called:

The cars not only were cool, but unlike *Matchbox*® cars their wheels actually had suspension so that they were fast and could race on tracks or smooth floors. Mattel soon found that they appealed just as much to collectors as kids, and over the years they came out with hundreds of new models each year, often in a "series" that collectors would want to complete and own in entirety. Nowadays there are ***Hot Wheels***® conventions where collectors meet, discuss, and trade; and even ***Hot Wheels***® museums and displays.

The ***Checkmate*** series is one such series meant for collectors. You can easily buy the whole thing online, but Chris points out it is more fun to try to find them in the stores.

Note that each package has the series icon on it, and the 50th anniversary logo.

Here are more examples from the series, with photos supplies by Chris or from the Internet:

TOP 25

For SEPT. 2018

	Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players			
	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2569	-4	
2	Howard Zhong	2299	0	
3	Mark Hulsey	2222	-16	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Sergey Galant	2188	0	
7	Tom Patton	2109	0	
8	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2107	0	
9	Anthony Paolercio	2099	0	
10	Logan Zachare	2099	10	▲
11	Adonis Turner	2084	0	
12	John Cope	2084	0	
13	Charles D Unruh	2072	0	
14	Veronika Zilajeva	2072	26	▲
15	Chuck Johnson	2063	0	
16	David Luscomb	2054	0	
17	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
18	Matt Dalthorp	2040	0	
19	Charles M Unruh	2033	-4	
20	Alan Islas	2024	0	
21	James Long	2006	23	▲
22	Jeff Colbert	1998	0	
23	Joe Dean Veal	1994	22	▲
24	Neil Naputo Sr	1972	0	
25	Shaun Graham	1956	0	▲
25	Wayne Hatcher	1950	0	▲

Player of the Month

VERONIKA ZILAJEVA

You win a national championship in style, you are gonna be player of the month. (See article page 1).

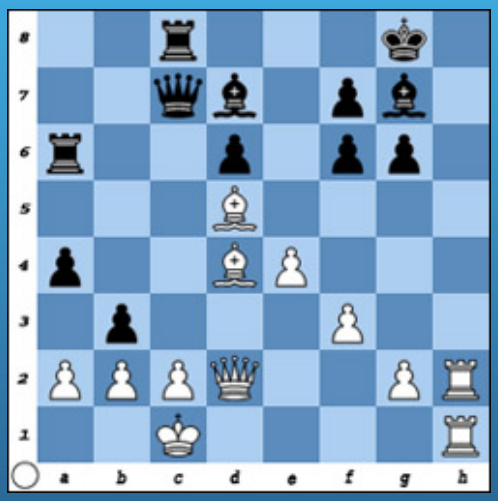
The Beetle, of course, is the coolest, and appears to be the one most rare to find on the shelves.

Black Queen is a fantasy car called “Velocita.”

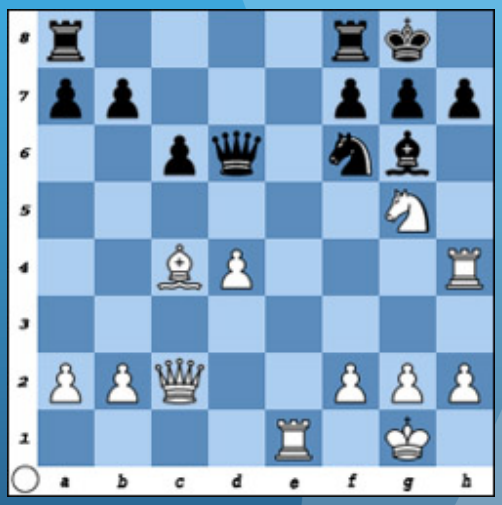
The Bishop is a weird fantasy car called the

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



WHITE to move and win. (Medium)
From the game M. Dalthorp – J. Huang, 2018 Jerry Spann Memorial



WHITE to move and win. (Difficult)

"Cloak and Dagger," which originally looked like this when it first came out in 2007:

Why this strange thing, which doesn't seem to fit well with the other cars in the collection, was tapped to represent a "Bishop" is not clear.

An example of the car that represents a White Pawn is this "Fast 4WD" …

… however, they have more than one kind of "Pawn" in the collection. For example, this 2012 Ford Fiesta is another one, and looks better in my opinion:

Could you actually play a game if you collected a full set of these things? Sure, but that would probably send your Nerd Meter up into the red zone, so I wouldn't recommend it. But Chris W says he wants to complete his collection and make a little display box for them, taking advantage of the "J-Hook" packaging design to hang them on the wall. That could definitely be nifty.

Full information on the series:
http://hotwheels.wikia.com/wiki/Checkmate_Series

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) 1. Rh8+! Bxh8 2. Rxh8+, Kxh8 3. Qh6+, Kg8 4. Qxg6+ 1-0

(2) A classic combination worth remembering, which works because black's queen is undefended! 1. Qxg6!! hxg6 2. Bxf7+, Rxf7 After this setup, white now has a forking combination to regain the material with interest: 3. Rh8+! Kxh8 4. Nxf7+ Kg8 5. Nxd6 and white is a pawn up with a winning endgame.

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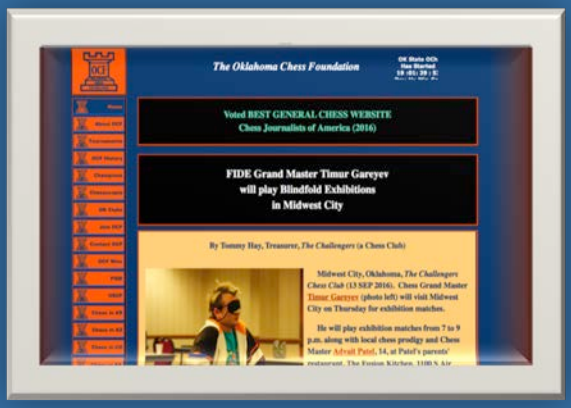
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Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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Okies in St. Louis

Spectating at the 2018 Sinquefield Cup

Several Tulsa players went up to Saint Louis on August 18 to spectate at the first two rounds of the Sinquefield Cup grandmaster tournament featuring most of the top 10 players in the world including Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana, and many other modern greats. Among the travelers that first weekend were Anthony Paolercio, Roger Earl, Kent Swearingen and Phil Wilson. Others went on different days — Bill Sparks and Lou Hays, to name a few who said they were also going.

The pilgrimage to spectate in St. Louis is becoming more and more popular as players learn how easy and fun it can be.

How to Do It: I wrote an in-depth article with tips for how to spectate in St. Louis in the April 2017 OCM, here:
http://ocfchess.org/pdf/OCM-2017-04-01.pdf

Roger Earl — GM Caruana — Anthony Paolercio

Note Roger's "Fabi Wins!" t-shirt.

Roger Earl writes about their experiences: "We had an awesome time!!! We ran into Kent, his wife, and Phil at the Chess Cafe. We all hung out quite a bit. We played a lot of speed chess on the tables outside. We visited the World Chess Hall of Fame museum, which

was really cool. Istvan Szabad (who loves chess sets) would be in heaven there! We watched the Sinquefield Cup action on Saturday and Sunday. It was very exciting to see the players up close. But, there was a 16-year-old kid that worked for the club who would shush us if Anthony and I even looked at each other (it was funny and annoying at the same time).

We spent most of our time in the Kingside Cafe commentary room. It was great! I felt like I learned a lot from the excellent analysis provided by GMs Chirlia and Ramirez! They were willing to entertain even the most offbeat questions or suggestions. And, since they were not on TV you never felt like they were trying to be PC. They just said what they felt."

"I kept running into Levon (Aronian). I had to explain that I really wasn't trying to follow him! He was super nice and we had a brief, but pleasant conversation."

"We got a couple of photos. One with previous world champ, Vishy Anand. And a couple with future world champion, Fabiano Caruana."

(Photos by Phil Wilson, Roger Earl)

The *Oklahoma Chess Monthly* won three awards this year from the Chess Journalists of America, announced at the U.S. Open on August 3:

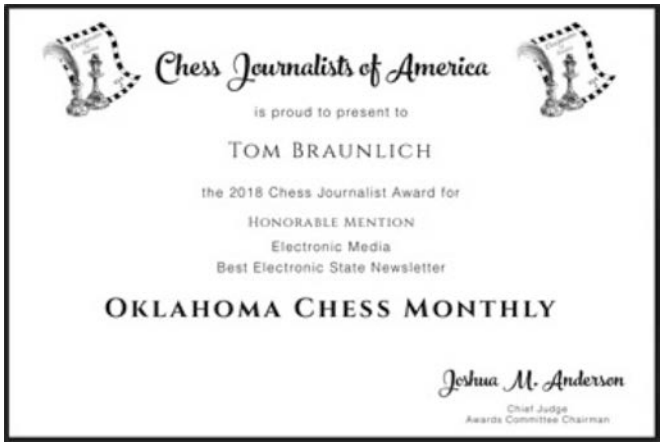
Lou Hays won "Best Online Historical Article" for *"Why Bobby Fischer Came Back: My Extraordinary Adventure with the World Chess Champion,"* his brilliant reminiscence and inside story of helping Fischer arrange his comeback match with Spassky in 1992.

Chess Journalists of America
is proud to present to
LOU HAYS
the 2018 Chess Journalist Award for
FIRST PLACE
Online News and Features
Best Historical Article
WHY BOBBY FISCHER CAME BACK: MY EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE WITH THE WORLD CHESS CHAMPION
Joshua M. Anderson
Chief Judge
Awards Committee Chairman

Lou's article was professionally edited by Rebecca Rutledge and fully deserves the award, as it does set the record straight on some of the reasons and motivations Fischer had in his rematch.

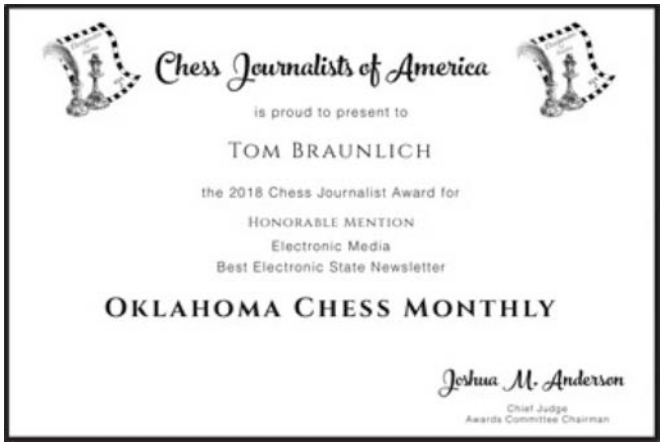
It was published in the June 2017 issue of the OCM, and we were proud to do so. It is going to be reprinted soon in *American Chess Magazine*.

Tom Braunlich won "Best Online Features Article" for *"Jerry Spann: The Forgotten 'Man Who Will Never Be Forgotten'"* which appeared in the August and September 2017 issues of OCM. On the 60th anniversary of Spann's election as USCF President, it recounts his critical chess career as the Oklahoma businessman literally rescued the USCF from bankruptcy through his extraordinary efforts, with lessons for U.S. Chess today.



It is also going to be reprinted soon, in the CJA Newsletter.

The Oklahoma Chess Monthly won Honorable Mention for "Best Electronic State Newsletter."



Oscar Wang starred in an online YouTube video that was making the rounds in August, put out by a California chess master, entitled, "Did This Random Chess Hustler Kid Just Hustle Carlini???"

Oscar was in Southern California for tournament on his way back from Summer in China. It's funny watching him crush the guy, with a laugh: https://bit.ly/2LwYwt0

They are Warriors First

By Jim Hollingsworth

Editor's Note: I asked veteran Jim Hollingsworth, organizer of the upcoming "reunion-style" Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans Open championships in late September— which is open to military players from all states — to give us a bit of the flavor of what it is like at these hard-fought military tournaments, including the Armed Forces Championships he has played in going back decades, with the aid of his treasury of old photographs and memorabilia.

The 2017 Texas Armed Forces (TXAFCC) and Military Veterans Open (TXMVOCC) Chess Championships were like a high school reunion, where many of us hadn't seen each other in over 30 years. For some it had been fewer years. Some had never met, but soon would become good friends.

They are warriors first, chess players second.

Many distinguished themselves during the Vietnam War and/or the Global War on Terrorism. Many also distinguished themselves on their service chess teams, in U.S. Armed Forces chess championships, and in NATO chess championships. More importantly, they are all brothers-in-arms serving or who have honorably served our Nation in time of crisis. They represent every branch of service. Some are retired officers and NCOs. Some are wounded warriors. Others answered our Nation's call after 9-11 and returned to civilian life to make our Nation stronger.

Awards banquet, Army Chess Championship, 7 June 1991. (L-R) Senior TD Ron Braud, CPT Jim Hollingsworth, CPT Larry Brown. Larry and I drew our Round 9 game.

Round 8. I had a lucky win against 1LT David Hater (Chess Expert). (Above photo) Neither of us made the Army Team. Both of us are from Ohio. He let me ride with him. Along the way we stopped and played in a small tournament on the western side of the Appalachian Mountains. I remember I sacrificed a lot of rating points in that one. David went on to win several Army Championships and played in the NATO Championship many times. He is now a retired Army Colonel and a National Tournament Director. He is registered for the Texas Armed Forces Chess Championship in late September.

National Chess Master Charles Crook (left) won the Army Championship that year. However, I had a special line prepared for him based on Life Senior Chess Master Emory Tate eating his lunch in the 1989 Armed Forces Chess Championship. I believe our game was the most exciting loss in my lifetime.

Seven years before 9-11, I accepted Army Colonel Mike Donovan's kind invitation to stay in his home while we both played in the US Armed Forces Open Chess Championship

(USAFOCC). He even let me use his frequent flyer miles to pay for my travel. Friends like that are worth more than their weight in gold and such a relationship doesn't happen overnight. In 1987 and 1988 we were both Battery Commanders in Korea. One day he entered my office to talk about a Soldier. As he turned to leave, the "sixth sense" all real chess players have kicked in and I asked, "Say, do you play chess?" "Well, yes. As a matter of fact, I do!" was his reply. For the rest of our tours, using what little free time we had available, we traveled around Korea playing in one-day tournaments. Later we both played together, twice, in the All Army Championship and in the 2009 USAFOCC in Gettysburg.

Mike asked me about my retirement plans. I said I would like to organize the Texas Armed Forces Chess Championship. …

… Fast forward to 2017 in North Richland Hills. I'm looking around the room and smiling. Somehow, I managed to organize all of this, down to the last detail. I had a lot of help. I asked a lot of people for tax-exempt donations to pay for everything, including the entrance fees. Some gave a little. Some gave a lot. I remain grateful to this very day. I hired a "civilian" TD. I also hired a "civilian" adjutant. That way I could focus on making everyone associated with the event feel special. And I might even be able to play.

Six chess experts were on hand. And there were many champions in the crowd. Two Armed Forces Champions were present. One player had won the Army Championship seven times. One player was a Texas Amateur Champion. Several had won Military Installation and City Championships.

2017 Fort Worth Veterans Chess Champion, Jack Pena, was there. He's a Navy veteran and was using his GI Bill benefits at the University of Texas at Arlington. Chess Expert Jhonel Bahniel won the Armed Forces Championship in 2008 and was using his GI Bill benefits at the University of Texas at Dallas. Navy Veteran Tom Crane was there. He has many years of faithful service as Region 2 Director for the Texas Chess Association (TCA) and provided a huge amount of behind-the-scenes support.

Mike Donovan was there. He had retired, moved to Austin, and joined the Texas Chess Team. Carmen Chairez and Chess Expert James Stallings were there. Both survived being Army lieutenants during the Vietnam War (a significant achievement, especially for fire support officers). I knew Carmen many years at the old Watauga Chess Club. Now he is retired and living in Round Rock and on the Texas Chess Team. I had heard of James and his good works as Director of the University of Texas at Dallas Chess Program. He's one of the nicest guys one could ever meet.

James Stallings' busy schedule prevents him from playing much these days. This was his first rated tournament in over 13 years. He proved his game hadn't suffered.

Stallings, James (2001)
Hollingsworth, Jim (1801)
TX Armed Forces 2017, NRH, Texas. 2017.09.24
1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 c5 3. e3 cxd4 4. exd4 d5 5. Be2 e6 6. O-O Be7 7. b3 O-O 8. Bb2 Nc6 9. Nbd2 b6 10. Rc1 Bb7 11. Re1 Rc8 12. Nf1 Ne4 13. Ne5 Bg5 14. Nxc6 Rxc6 15. Ne3 Qd6 16. Bf3 Nc3 17. Bxc3 Rxc3 18. Qd2 Rfc8 19. Be2 Qa3 20. Bd3 a5 21. g3 Qb4 22. f4 Bf6 23. a3 Qxd4 24. Kf1 R3c7 25. Ng4 Be7 26. Bxh7+ 1-0

Many others were there including retired Marine Warrant Officer John Farrell from Virginia. John is a chess expert and one of the USAFOCC organizers. He took home one award and was noticeably impressed by the TXAFCC.

The biggest celebrity in the room was Chess Expert Rudy Tia. He probably owns over half of the total military chess held by the players. To no one's surprise, Rudy swept the field, 4-0, and claimed the 2017 Texas Armed Forces Chess Champion title.

Time will tell whether the TXAFCC becomes

an annual event.

The next one is in Hillsboro, Texas (29-30 September 2018).

The record is 20 players. As I write this, 14 players are registered, including five from out-of-state. US Chess and TCA memberships are required (for everybody). However, thanks to our generous donors and sponsors, there is no entrance fee.

I reached out and invited friends from the Lawton/Fort Sill area. Chess Expert Neil Naputo and I walked the same turf in Korea. In 2005 he was the 2d Infantry Division Champion and 8th Army Champion. He went on to play on the 2005 Army Chess Team. Jimmy Nazario is a retired Air Force and Army veteran. One year he was playing my young Son in a Fort Sill tournament and was considering offering the young lad (age 8 or 9) a draw. But first, he scarfed up a Knight my Son left hanging. Then my Son softly told Jimmy, "You pig!" So much for the draw offer.

The combined TXAFCC and TXMVOCC is an epic Championship unlike any other tournament. It includes a Veterans Dinner and a Texas Hold'em game on Saturday evening, at the hotel.

There's still room for a few more Okies. My friend, retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Joe Hill (of OKC) says he may stop by, not to play, but to visit. I'm looking forward to finding out which of us is the lousiest poker player.

Major Joe Hill with Sergeant Hollingsworth right after the Awards Banquet on 16 September 1983.

Compare that with this photo of Joe Hill, right, now a retired Lt. Colonel, posing with D. Ballard (left, Oklahoma's first master), and Frank K. Berry in 2016.

More info:
http://seriouschessplayers.com/scp_txafcc_2018.html

Holmes, Joseph F (1947)
Cummings, Dennis (2016)
[B33] 2018 Arkansas State Championship (5), 22.07.2018
[Notes by TB]

Dennis Cummings is a veteran Arkansas expert with visual impairment who even so has always been a strong player. This clever win is a good example, and won him 2nd place in this year's Arkansas Championship.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 Nf6 7.Bg5 a6 The complex Lasker-Pelikan Variation. 8.Na3 Be7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bf8!?

[A new move here, but a loss of time. He wants to redeploy his B, which typically happens in this line, but should finish development first (even though he gets away with it here). Instead, the main line runs 10...b5 11.c3 f5 12.Bd3 Be6 as in this recent example: 13.Qh5 f4 14.0-0 0-0 15.c4 bxc4 16.Bxc4 Rb8 17.b3 Nd4 18.Rac1 f5 19.f3 Kh8 20.Nc3 Bd7 21.Nc2 Be8 22.Qh3 Bd7 23.Qh5 Be8 24.Qh3 Bd7 Draw Sandipan,C (2431)-Lalic,B (2531)/Ubeda 2001]

11.Qf3 Bg7 12.0-0-0!?

[Holmes is tempted to punish his opponent for his tempo loss in the opening and castles queenside, announcing his intention to attack. The computer also likes this move. However, I think a much more practical continuation is to use white's extra tempo to complete the bind on the light squares with 12.Bd3 Be6 13.c3 white attempts to prevent black's typical freeing move ...f5, and experience has shown this bind can be deadly for black if he can't break it. The computer also gives this +1 for white. In fact, here I think black's best chance is to gambit a pawn with 13...Ne7 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Qxf6 Rg8 which is interesting.]

12...b5

Black says he can threaten an attack too... 13.c4?

Although this is a common move in this variation in general, here it helps black's counterplay by giving him the d4 square and a potential way to open a file on the queenside.

[My computer gives this line for white: 13.Kb1 Be6 14.c3 Rb8 15.Nc2 0-0 16.h4 a5 17.h5 and here Black has to either adopt passive defense with 17...h6, which is going to lose to a knight coming to f5, or give up a pawn for activity with 17...Bh6!? 18.Nxf6+ *(18.Qxf6 Bg5 19.Qxd8 Bxd8)* 18...Kh8 19.Ng4 Bg5 20.h6 b4!? when the outcome of the game remains unclear although no doubt white's chances are better.]

13...Nd4 14.Qg3 0-0

Confident that white is not going to capture on b5 and open up files, Cummings castles and now has even chances in this unbalanced position.

15.Nc2

White must get rid of the strong black knight.

15...Nxc2 16.Kxc2 Be6 17.Kb1 Kh8

[17...f5!= would break white's bind in the center and potentially open up black's two bishops for queenside pressure.]

18.Qe3

[18.Qf3! re-establishing the light square bind

gives white an edge. Black would then have a hard time getting his bishops into the game.]

18...Rb8 19.Be2 f5!

Once allowed this break, black's chances of attack are much greater and Cummings finds it.

20.Bf3?

[20.cxb5 axb5 21.f3 would have been white's best chance to keep the center stable.]

20...fxe4! 21.Bxe4 f5!

Black can play this idea twice! Now black's center is fluid, with his bishops perfectly poised behind the pawns, ready to break out, as soon happens! Black is already winning here, the b-file will be opened soon, and ...e4 will come to attack the b2 pawn twice using the g7 bishop.

22.Bc2

[White finds a defensive scheme that almost works. 22.Bd3 e4 23.Be2 bxc4 wins.]

22...bxc4 23.Qa3 e4 24.b4!?

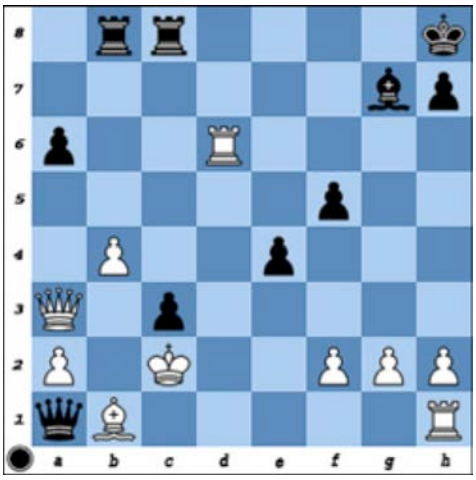
Blocking the file at the cost of a pawn, but not for long...

24...Bxd5 25.Rxd5 Qf6 26.Kc1 Qa1+ 27.Bb1 c3 28.Kc2 Has white put together a defense?

28...Rfc8!

No, white is practically in zugzwang here. His Q must stay protecting b2, and his rooks have no way to prevent black from slowly creeping in, and if white's rook grabs that pawn...

29.Rxd6



29...a5!

[The immediate 29...Qb2+ 30.Qxb2 cxb2+ 31.Kd2 Rxb4 32.Rd1 is not so clear.]

30.Rhd1 Qb2+?

[Perhaps in time pressure, Cummings heads for a winning endgame, but 30...Bf8! was even stronger and would have been a fitting and elegant culmination of his attack. After this move, white's rook on d6 can't move without disaster, and if 31.R1d5 Bxd6 32.Rxd6 Rxb4 is curtains.]

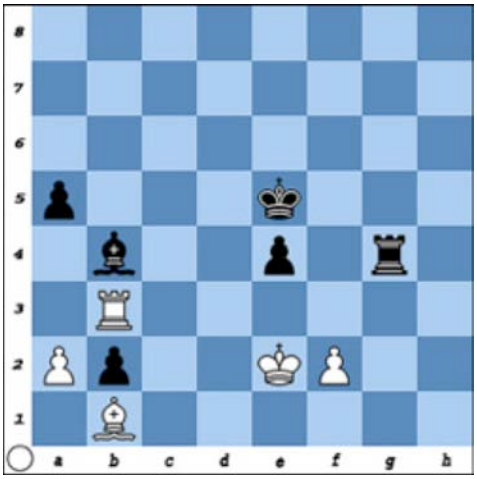
31.Qxb2 cxb2+ 32.Kd2 Bf8 33.Rd5 Bxb4+ 34.Ke3 Rc5

[34...Rc1! freezes white's pieces and should win. With time pressure looming the game enters a messy phase as black lets the advantage slip away only to find a nice trap, that worked out for him.]

35.Rxc5 Bxc5+ 36.Ke2 Bb4 37.h3 Rc8? [37...Rg8!] 38.g4 fxg4 39.hxg4 Rg8 40.Rg1 h5? 41.Rh1! Rxg4 42.Rxh5+ Kg7 43.Rh3! Going after the b2 by planning Rb3. 43...Kf6

[43...Rf4! 44.Re3 *(44.Rb3 Bc5!)* 44...Bc5 45.Rxe4 Rxf2+ 46.Kd3 is just a slight edge for black now, maybe not enough.]

44.Rb3 Ke5 Setting a trap ...



45.Rxb2? ...into which white falls. White could have avoided it with 45.a3! kicking back the bishop before taking on b2; with a draw.

45...Rg1!

It's mate or white has to give up mega-material.

46.Bc2 Re1# 0-1

Zilajeva, Veronika (2078)
Li, Marissa (2046)
2018 Natl Girls Tourn of Champions, Madison WI (5), 30.07.2018
[Notes by V. Zilajeva]
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3
This is a line directed against the Gruenfeld that is not extremely well known or often played, so I picked it to create a position hoping that she might not be as familiar with it as she would in other lines.
3...d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 f5
[The two main lines for black are 9...f5 and 9...e5 . If anything else is played, white gets some advantage. Also, it was my first attempt with this opening, so I was a little nervous about castling queenside and unbalancing the position. Since we castled opposite sides, both of us have a potential for an aggressive game.]
10.e5 Nb4 11.Nh3 Be6 12.Kb1 Qd7 13.a3?
[This was a mistake. Since, as previously mentioned, I have never played this opening I thought that the knight on b4 was a threat. While it is uncomfortable, I should have kept attacking on the kingside. Example game after the better move: 13.Nf4 Rfd8 14.h4 Na4? *(14...Nc4 15.Bxc4 Bxc4-)* 15.d5! Nxc3+ 16.Qxc3 Qa4 17.Bc4 Bf7 18.Bb3 Qb5 19.a4 Qa5 20.Nd3 1-0 Agdestein (2555)-Van Kerkhof (2295)/Prague 2013]
13...N4d5 14.Nf4 Nxf4 [14...Nxe3=] 15.Bxf4 Rad8 16.Qc2 Nd5 17.Nxd5 Qxd5 18.Kc1 Rc8?!
I think here Black has an advantage and she should not be wasting a move, but rather start attacking right away. [TB-The computer gives 18...Qa2!? 19.Qb1 Qxb1+ 20.Kxb1 c5 Temporarily winning a pawn, but white gets counterplay with 21.Rc1 cxd4 22.Rc7≥]

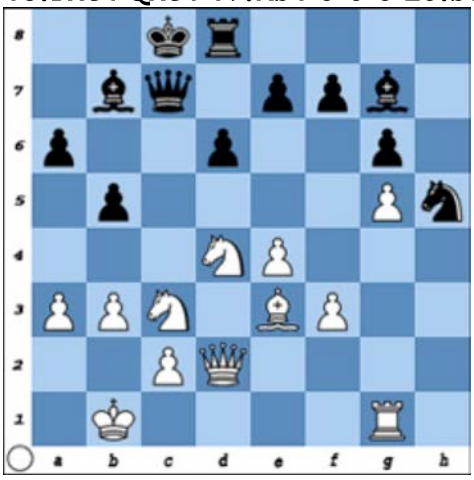
19.Qc5! Qa2??
[19...Qxc5+ 20.dxc5 and the position is pretty even. But partly because my opponent was not as familiar with the position, she 'over-attacked' and ended up trapping her own queen.]
20.d5! Bd7 21.Bc4 Qa1+ 22.Kc2 Ba4+ 23.Bb3 c6 (Black struggles, but there is no way out for the queen.) 24.d6+ Bxb3+ 25.Kxb3 exd6 26.Qxd6 1-0

Nguyen, Thanh Thuy Tien (2144)
Zilajeva, Veronika (2078)
2018 Natl Girls Tourn of Champions, Madison WI (6), 30.07.2018
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg74.O-O d5 5.c4 c6 6.d4 O-O 7.Ne5 Nbd7 8.Nc3 dxc4 9.Nxc4 Nb6 10.Nxb6 Qxb6 11.Na4 Qd8 12.e4 Re8 13.f4 Bg4 14.Qd3 Qa5 15.Nc5 b6 16.Bd2 Qb5 17.Qxb5 cxb5 18.e5 bxc5 19.Bxa8 Rxa8 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.dxc5 Bxb2 22.Rae1 Be6 23.Be3 a6 24.Rf2 Bc3 25.Rd1 b4 26.Bc1 Bg4 27.Rd5 Be6 28.Rd1 Bg4 29.Rd3 Bf5 30.Rd1 Bg4 31.Rd3 Bf5 32.Rxc3 bxc3 33.Rf3 c2 34.c6 Rd8 35.a3 Rd1+ 36.Kf2 Rxc1 37.Rc3 Rd1 38.g4 c1=Q 39.Rxc1 Rxc1 0–1

Garner, Ed (1918)
Hulsey, Mark (2230) [A03]
US Seniors Ch 2018 (1), 30.07.2018
[Notes by Hulsey]
"My first round game was a reasonably good win

from a black side of a Bird's Opening. My opening play was speculative, trying to engage an early struggle for the center, but white could have obtained the advantage (according to Stockfish) with 12. e4. He traded f-pawns first, but only served to open a file accessible to black first. I continued to play speculatively with 15...exd4 allowing 16. c4 which would have given white a slight advantage, according to the computer. Instead he played 16. Bxd4 which allowed me to sac a pawn with 16...Nc5 and open the center with his K stuck there. After that, he found it increasingly difficult to find good moves and was mated.
1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bg2 c6 6.d4 Be7 7.c3 b6 8.Be3 Ba6 9.Ne5 Nfd7 10.Nd2 f6 11.Nef3 Qc7 12.Bf2 e5!? 13.fxe5 [13.e4!≤] 13...fxe5 14.e4 0-0 15.exd5 exd4!? [15...cxd5 16.Qb3 Nc6] 16.Bxd4 [16.c4!≤ Ne5 17.0-0 Nxc4 18.Nxd4≤] 16...Nc5 17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.Qb3 Qe7+ 19.Kd1 Qe2+ 20.Kc1 Qxg2 21.Re1 Kh8 22.Kc2 Nd7 23.dxc6 Rxf3 24.cxd7 Bd3+ 25.Kc1 Re3 26.Qd1 Rd8 27.Nf3 Rxe1 28.Nxe1 Be3+ 0-1

Rotenberg, Marc (2166)
Hulsey, Mark (2230)
US Seniors Ch 2018 (3), 01.08.2018 [B72]
[Notes by TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 a6 7.f3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 b5 9.g4 h6 10.0-0-0 Bb7 11.a3 Bg7 12.Be2 Qc7 13.h4 Ne5 14.g5 hxg5 15.hxg5 Rxh1 16.Rxh1 Nh5 17.Rg1 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.Kb1 0-0-0 20.b3 Qc7



21.Ndxb5!?
[21.Nd5 would have given white a slight edge, but he is tempted by a sacrifice.]
21...axb5 22.Nxb5 Qb8 23.Rd1 Kd7 24.Ba7 Qc8 [The best defense was 24...Qa8! 25.Qb4 Be5 26.Qc5 Bf4 27.Nc7 Rc8 28.Nxa8 Rxc5 29.Bxc5 Bxa8 slight edge for black.] 25.Bb6 Be5 26.Bxd8 Kxd8 27.c4 Qc5 [27...Ke8! 28.Qa5 Nf4≥] 28.Qa5+ Kd7 29.Qa7 [Here white misses a beautiful shot 29.Nxd6!+- after which an ending occurs in which Hulsey demonstrates the superiority of two active pieces over a Rook plus 2 pawns.] 29...Qxa7 30.Nxa7 Nf4 31.c5 Ba6 32.b4 Bd3+ 33.Rxd3 Nxd3 34.c6+ Kc7 35.Kc2 Ne1+ 36.Kb3 Nxf3 37.a4 Kb8 38.Nb5 Nd4+ 39.Nxd4 Bxd4 40.a5 Kc7 41.b5 Be3 42.Kc4 Bd2 43.a6 Kb6 44.Kd3 Bxg5 0-1

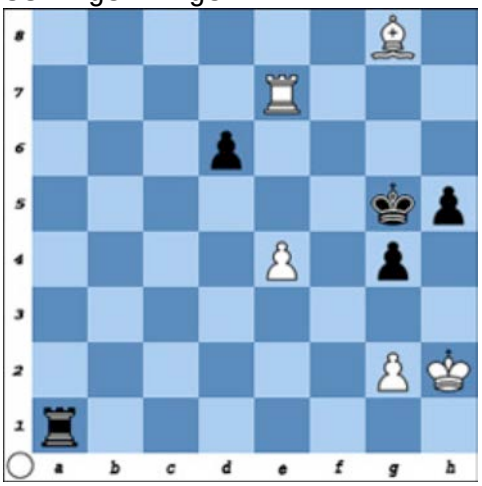
Games from Tulsa Quads 2

Veal, Joe Dean (1968)
Paolercio, Anthony (2099) [A25]
Tulsa Quads 2 (2), 25.08.2018
[TB]
1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 f5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d3 Bc5 6.e3 a6 7.Nge2 Ba7 8.0-0 d6 9.d4 Bd7 10.b3 0-0 11.Bb2 Rb8 12.Rc1 exd4 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.exd4 b5 [14...c6≤] 15.Ba1 [15.Nd5 threatening cxb5 15...bxc4 16.Rxc4 Nxd5 17.Bxd5+ Kh8 18.Re1≤] 15...b4 [15...bxc4 16.bxc4 c6=] 16.Nd5 Ne4 17.f3 Ng5!? 18.Nf4 Re8 19.Qd2 Ne6 20.Nxe6 Bxe6 21.f4≤ Qd7 22.Kh1 c6 23.d5?! [23.Rfe1≤] 23...cxd5 24.Bxd5? Bxd5+?! [Okay, but 24...Be3! wins the exchange] 25.Qxd5+ Kh8 26.c5 Qb5 27.Qxf5? [The computer shows that after 27.Qf7 black would have to take perpetual check with 27...Qc6+ 28.Kg1 Bxc5+ 29.Rf2 Bxf2+ 30.Kxf2 Qb6+ 31.Kf1 Qb5+ 32.Kg1 *(32.Rc4? Rg8)* 32...Qb6+ *(32...Rg8? 33.Rc7* wins*)* 33.Kf1 Qb5+=] 27...Qc6+ 28.Kg1 dxc5? [28...Bxc5+ 29.Rxc5 Qxc5+ 30.Qxc5 dxc5 with a winning ending for black.] 29.Rc4 Blocking the black bishop's diagonal and the advantage switches back to white. 29...Re2 30.Bxg7+! Kxg7 31.Qg4+ Kh8 32.Qxe2 Re8 33.Qf3 Qf6 34.Rd1 Qb2 35.Qc6 Qe2 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.Rf1 Qxa2 38.f5 Qxb3 39.Rg4# 1-0

Seidl, Luke (899)
Flexner-Bury, Stuart (1114) [D02]
Tulsa Quads 2 (2), 25.08.2018
[TB]
1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 e6 6.Nh4 Be4 7.Nhf3 Bd6 8.Bg3 0-0 9.Be2 Qe7 10.0-0 Rad8 11.c4 b6?! [11...Bxg3 12.hxg3 h6 13.Qb3 Rb8=] 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Qa4 Qd7? [13...Na5±] 14.Bb5 Qg4 15.Bxc6 Nh5 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Ne5 Bxe5 18.dxe5 Rd2 19.Qxe4 Qxe4 20.Bxe4 Re8 21.Bc6 Re6 22.Bf3 Nxg3 23.fxg3 Rxe5 24.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 h6 26.Kf2 c5 27.h4 f5 28.g4 fxg4 29.Bxg4 Re4 30.Kf3 1-0

Szabad, Istvan (1453)
Winn, Zachary (1134) [B46]
Tulsa Quads 2 (2), 25.08.2018
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Be3 a6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.a3 Qc7 9.Bd3 Bd6 10.h3 Rb8 11.Rb1 Qa5 12.0-0 Qe5 13.f4 Qh5 14.e5 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Bf4 Qc5+ 17.Kh1 Rb7 18.Bxa6 Rxb2 19.Rxb2 Qxc3 20.Rb8 0-0 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Bxc8 e5 23.Bc1 Ne4 24.Qxd7 Ng3+ 25.Kg1 Qc5+ 26.Rf2 Ne2+ 27.Kh2 Nf4 28.Qe8+ 1-0

Pullela, Naren (1940)
Bulleigh, Adam (1716) [B60]
Tulsa Quads 2 (2), 25.08.2018
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nc6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bc4 e5 9.Qd2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rad1 Be6 12.Bb3 Qc7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Qh6 Kh8 15.Rd3 Rg8 16.Rg3 [16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Rh3 Rg7 18.Rd1 d5≥] 16...Rg6? [16...Rxg3 17.hxg3 Rg8≤] 17.Rxg6 fxg6 18.Bxe6
A piece up, white should win easily, right? Not if you casually let too many pawns get traded off...
18...Bf8 19.Qd2 Rb8 20.Bb3 Kg7 21.h3 h5 22.f4 exf4 23.Qxf4 Be7 24.Ne2 a5 25.Nd4 Qb6 26.Qf2 Kh7 27.Ne6 Qxf2+ 28.Rxf2 a4 29.Bxa4 Rxb2 30.Bxc6 Rxa2 31.Ng5+ [31.Bd5 Ra1+ 32.Rf1 Ra7 33.Rb1 etc. White is letting too many pawns get traded off and thus the piece-up ending is getting more difficult.] 31...fxg5 32.Rf7+ Kh6 33.Rxe7 Rxc2 34.Bd5 Rc1+ 35.Kh2 Ra1 36.Bg8 g4 37.h4 g5 38.hxg5+ Kxg5

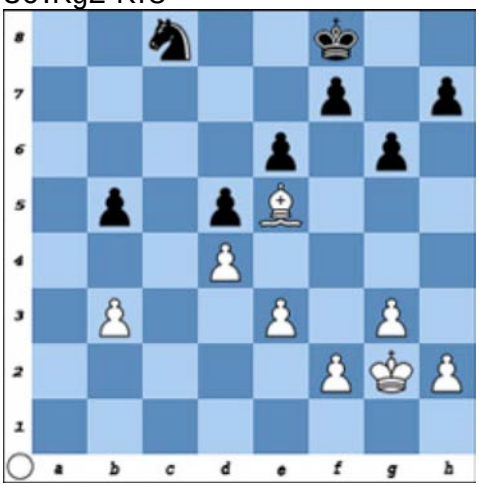


39.e5??
[Already here great care was required to win; white's king is in trouble in the corner. 39.Bd5! h4 40.Rg7+ Kf4 41.Rf7+ Ke3 *(41...Kg5 42.Rf5+ Kg6 43.g3 hxg3+ 44.Kxg3* etc.*) 42. Rh7 g3+ 43. Kh3, Rh1+ 44.Kg4 Rh2 45. Rxh4, Rxg2 46. Rh3, Kf2 47. e5! Wins.*]
39...dxe5= 40.Rxe5+??
[Young Naren underestimates the precarious position of his king until it is too late. He has to force a draw now with something like 40.Bd5 h4 41.Rg7+ Kf5 42.Rf7+ Kg5 43.Rg7+ Kf4 44.Rf7+ Ke3 45.Re7 Kf4 46.Rf7+=]
40...Kf4!
Double threat against rook and king. Remarkably, white is lost. 41.g3+ Kxe5 42.Bf7 Ke4 43.Bxh5 Kf3 44.Bf7 Rd1 45.Bc4 Rd2+ 46.Kg1 Kxg3 47.Kf1 Kh2 48.Be2 Rxe2 49.Kxe2 g3 0-1

Parker, Mike (1627)
Wang, Oscar (1630) [B22]
Tulsa Quads 2 (2), 25.08.2018
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Qf3 Qd8 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.h3 Nc6 7.Qd3 Qxd3 8.Bxd3 e5 9.Na3 Be7 10.Ne2 0-0 11.Ng3 Nd5 12.0-0 Be6 13.Bf5 Bxf5 14.Nxf5 Bg5 15.g3 Rad8 16.Nc2 c4 17.h4 Bf6 18.Rd1 g6 19.Nfe3 Nxe3 20.Nxe3 b5 21.b3 cxb3 22.axb3 e4 23.Ra6 Rc8 24.d4 exd3 25.Rxd3 Bg7 26.Rd6 Ne5 27.Nd5 Kh8 28.Kg2 Nd3 29.Bd2 Be5 30.Rd7 Nc5 31.Raxa7 Nxd7 32.Rxd7 Rfd8 33.Rxd8+ Rxd8 34.c4 bxc4 35.bxc4 Rc8 36.Ne3 Bd4 37.Kf3 Bxe3 38.Bxe3 Rxc4 39.Ke2 f5 40.f4

Kg7 41.Kf3 h5 42.Ke2 Kf7 43.Kd3 Ra4 44.Ke2 Ke6 45.Kf3 Ra3 46.Ke2 Kd5 47.Kf3 Rb3 48.Ke2 Ke4 49.Bf2 Rb2+ 50.Kf1 Kf3 51.Be1 0-1

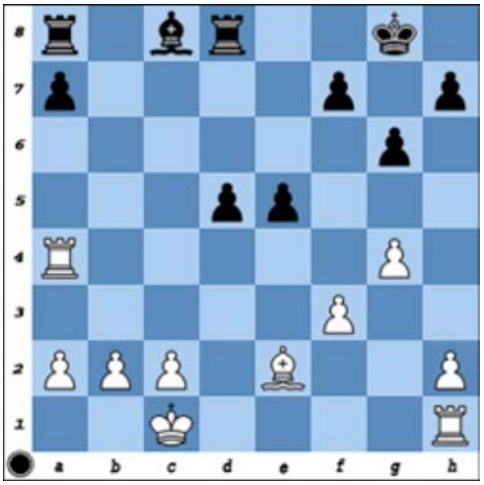
Mahayni, Zade (1087)
Reed,Brent (900) [A46]
Tulsa Quads 2 (3), 25.08.2018
[TB]
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nbd2 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.c3 Nbd7 9.Qc2 c5 10.Ng5 g6 11.Nge4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Bxe4 13.Nxe4 d5 14.Nd2 cxd4 15.cxd4 Rc8 16.Qd1 b5 17.Rc1 Nb6 18.Rxc8 Qxc8 19.Qc1 a5 20.Qc7 Qxc7 21.Bxc7 Bb4 22.Rd1 Bxd2 23.Rxd2 Nc4 24.Rc2 a4 25.b3 axb3 26.axb3 Ra8 27.g3 Rc8 28.Be5 Nb6 29.Rxc8+ Nxc8 30.Kg2 Kf8



31.Bf6
[Such a tempting move, but this ending illustrates what can happen in a B vs N ending when the bishop's pawns are on the same color and it gets stuck "in front" of them ... the sneaky N can get in behind and cause havoc. Better I think was 31.Bc7]
31...Ke8! [Nice. Not letting white play Bd8.] 32.f4 Ne7?!
[32...Na7! would get to the game continuation without give white the option of trading into a draw K+P ending.] 33.g4 [33.Bxe7 Kxe7=] 33...Nc6 34.Kf2? [White had to play 34.Bh4 to bring his B back for defense of the b pawn.] 34...Na5 35.b4 Nc6 36.Ke2 Nxb4 37.Kd2 Nc6 38.Kc3 Na5 39.Kb4 Nc4 40.Kxb5 Nxe3 41.h3 h5 42.g5 h4 43.Kc6 Nd1 44.Kd6 Nf2 0-1

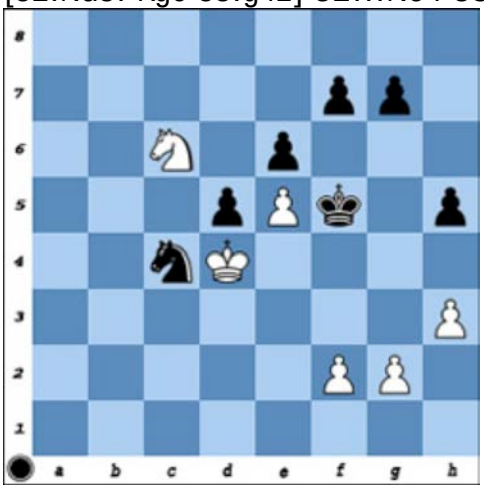
MORE GAMES FROM THE JERRY SPANN

Hulsey, Mark (2230)
Dalthorp, Matt (2030) [B76]
Jerry Spann Mem 2018 (3.1), 14.07.2018
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 d5
The well-known antidote when white doesn't play Bc4.
10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd4 Bxd4
[12...e5 is most common, in a variation dating back to the late '70s. 13.Bc5 Be6 14.Ne4 Re8 15.h4 h6 16.g4 Qc7 17.g5 h5 18.Bc4 with a complex game ahead. White nevertheless scores well (60%) with this main line, so Dragon players have been experimenting with other things.]
13.Qxd4 Qb6 Looking for a favorable exchange of queens or gambiting a pawn.
14.Nxd5
[Hulsey grabs the pawn. Also it is common to decline it with 14.Na4 Qc7 15.Bc4 Rb8 16.Rhe1 Rb4 17.b3 Qxh2 18.a3 Rb7 19.Nc5 Rc7 20.g4 Qf4+ 21.Qxf4 Nxf4 22.b4 Kg7 23.Ba6 Ne6 24.Nxe6+ Bxe6 25.Re5 Rh8 26.Rc5 h5 27.Be2 Rd7 28.Rh1 hxg4 29.Rxh8 Kxh8 30.fxg4 Bd5 31.b5 Rd6 32.c4 Bg2 33.a4 Kg7 34.a5 cxb5 35.cxb5 Rd7 36.Bc4 e6 37.Kc2 Kf6 38.g5+ Ke7 39.Kc3 Kd6 40.Kb4 Re7 41.Rc8 Rb7 42.a6 Rd7 43.Bb3 Rc7 44.Rxc7 Kxc7 Draw Kamsky (2732)-Nakamura (2759) 2012]
14...cxd5 15.g4!?
[A new move, taking the f5 square from black's bishop. More common is to grab the pawn: 15.Qxd5 Be6 16.Qb5 Qf2 17.Rd2 Qe1+ 18.Rd1 Qf2 19.Bd3 Rab8 20.Qe5 Bxa2 21.h4 Qb6 22.b3 Bxb3 23.cxb3 Qxb3 24.Kd2 Rfd8 25.Ke2 Rd6 26.Kf2 Rbd8 27.Be2 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 Rxd1 29.Bxd1 Qxd1 30.Qb8+ Kg7 31.Qe5+ Kg8 32.Qb8+ Kg7 33.Qe5+ Kg8 Ω-Ω (33) Baramidze,D (2614)-Jones,G (2648) 2013]
15...Rd8 16.Be2 Qxd4 17.Rxd4 e5 18.Ra4
The ending looks dynamically equal; black has a strong looking center, but white has a more active rook and pressure on the a7 weakness. Whoever plays best will win...



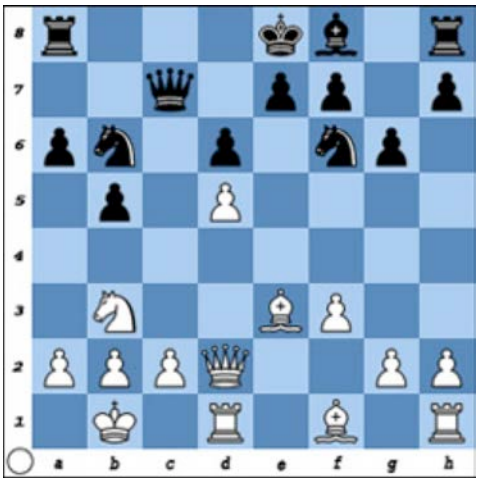
18...g5? I think this is an instructive mistake. At first it looks reasonable for black to prevent f3-f4 and "fix" white's pawns on light squares. But the move provides a "hook" white can use to open the h-file immediately for his other rook, after which his piece activity becomes more than black can handle.
19.h4! h6 20.hxg5 hxg5
White has been allowed to activate his other rook too, and now he gets some initiative. 21.Bd3 Bb7 22.Rh5 f6 23.Rh7 Bc8 24.Raxa7 Rxa7 25.Rxa7± e4 26.Be2 Be6 27.Re7!
An instructive liquidation into a winning K+P ending.
27...Rd6 28.fxe4 dxe4 29.Rxe6! Rxe6 30.Bc4 Kf7 31.a4 Ke7 32.Bxe6 Kxe6 33.a5 1-0

Xie, Kelvin (1328)
Coss, Gabe (1397) [C02]
Jerry Spann Memorial 2018- Reserve (4.21), 15.07.2018
[TB]
This turned out to be a key game in the Reserve section.
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 Bd7 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.Qb3 [This is an ancient gambit, and it is good to see the 9-year-old trying it against an adult, but his next two moves waste time. 10.Nc3] 10...Bc6 11.Bb5 Qb6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6**µ** 13.Qa4 Qb5 [13...Ne7 is solid, planning ...Nf5, bishop out, and castle, when white would have no compensation for the missing pawn. If Be3 black could safely grab the b-pawn too. Gabe seems to underestimate the kid around here and allow him time to get some threats going.] 14.Qc2 Ne7 15.Nc3 Qb8 16.Ne2 Qc7? [16...Qxe5] 17.Bf4 c5 18.Rac1 Rc8 19.Nd4 a6 20.Rfe1 The kid doesn't forget to develop all his pieces! 20...Nc6 21.Nf3 Be7 22.Qa4 Qa5 [22...0-0µ] 23.Qxa5 Nxa5 24.b4 Nb7 25.bxc5 Rxc5 26.Rb1 Nd8 [26...Rc7 27.Rec1 Kd7 28.Rxc7+ Kxc7µ] 27.Rb6 a5 28.Ra6 0-0?! [28...Rc2 29.Ra1 Nc6 30.Ra8+ Bd8µ] 29.Be3 Rc6 30.Rxc6 Nxc6 31.Rc1 Nb4 32.a3 Na6 33.a4 Rb8 34.h3 h6 35.Rc6 Nb4 36.Rc7 Bd8 37.Rc3 Bb6 [For all white's struggling, he still is down a clear pawn. Here all black needs to do is bring over his king to help consolidate the queenside, then start trading pieces. 37...Kf8 However, trading immediately leaves some weak dark squares for black.] 38.Bxb6 Rxb6 39.Rc8+ Kh7 40.Ra8 Ra6 41.Rf8 Ra7 42.Rc8 Na6 43.Nd4 Rc7 44.Rxc7 Nxc7 45.Nc6 Na6 46.Nxa5 Nc5 47.Nc6 Nxa4 White has made progress. It's still a win, but no longer easy... 48.Kf1 Kg6 49.Ke2 Kf5 50.Ke3 h5 [50...f6 51.g4+ Kg6 52.f4 and e6 becomes a serious weakness for black.; 50...g5 I think is best, undermining pawn support for e5.] 51.Kd4 Nb6 52.Kc5? [52.Nd8! Kg6 53.g4≥] 52...Nc4 53.Kd4

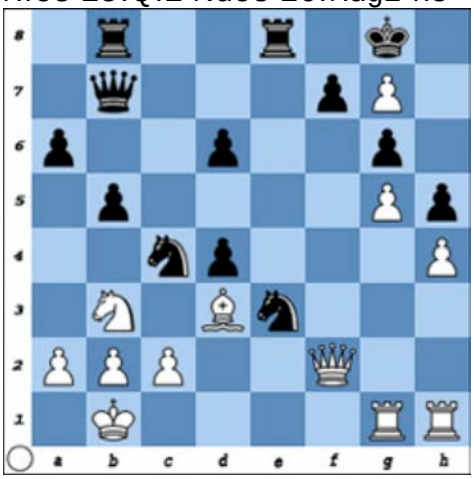


53...h4 [53...Kf4! wins. White is in zugzwang.] 54.g3 The only move, and Kelvin finds it! Keeps black king out of f4. 54...hxg3 55.fxg3 Nd2 56.Ne7+ Kg5 57.Ke3 Nc4+ 58.Kd4 Nd2 59.Ke3 Ne4 60.Kf3 The players were in time trouble and the remainder of the game is missing. Here ...f6 should eventually win; but the actual game was drawn. Nice defense by young Kelvin!
½ - ½

Phillips, David (2012)
Hulsey, Mark (2230) [B72]
Jerry Spann Memorial 2018 (4.1), 15.07.2018
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 a6 The "Chinese Dragon" with ...a6 has been popular lately. 7.f3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 b5 9.0-0-0 Bb7 10.Nb3 [More common is: 10.g4] 10...Qc7 11.Kb1 h6!? [11...Bg7] 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 Nb6



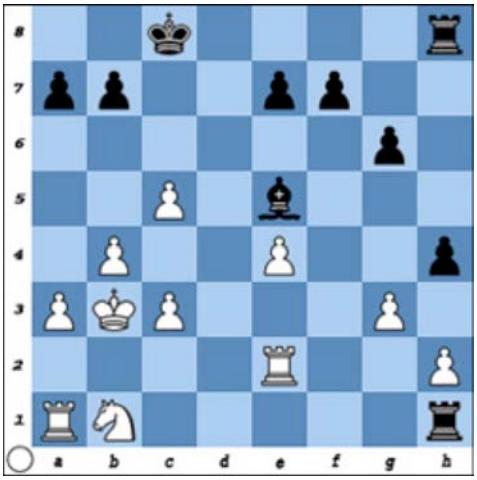
14.Bd4!?
[An interesting pawn gambit to leave black awkwardly placed with his knights. If instead 14.Bxb6 Qxb6 Black is happy, although my computer gives white a slight edge, but don't believe it.]
14...Nbxd5 15.Bd3 [15.c4!? bxc4 16.Rc1 c3 17.Bxc3 Nxc3+ 18.Rxc3 Qb7 White has rough compensation for the pawn.; 15.Rc1!?] 15...Bg7 16.g4?! Nb6 [16...e5! 17.Bf2 0-0 and black's N goes to f4 with advantage.] 17.f4 Nc4 18.Qg2 Rb8 19.h4 Qb7 20.Qe2 0-0 21.f5 e5 22.g5? [22.fxe6 Rbe8 23.Bxc4! bxc4 24.Qxc4 Rxe6≤] 22...Nd5 23.f6 exd4 24.fxg7 Rfe8 25.Qf2 Nde3 26.Rdg1 h5



27.Nxd4 Qd5 [Black is better] 28.Qf6 Ng4 29.Qf4 Qe5 30.Rf1 Qxg7 31.c3 Nge3 [31...Nge5] 32.Rf2 Nd5 33.Qf3 Re3 34.Qxd5 Rxd3 35.Re1- Rd8 36.Re7 Ne3! 37.Rxe3 [37.Qxf7+ Qxf7 38.Rfxf7 Rd1#] 37...Rxe3 38.Rf6 b4! 39.c4 Re5 40.Qb7 Rc5 41.Qb6 Rdc8 42.b3 d5 43.Nc6 Qf8 44.Qb7 Re8 45.Qxb4 dxc4 46.bxc4 Rc8 47.Qb7 R5xc6! [47...R5xc6 48.Rxc6 Rb8] 0-1

From the Kansas Open

Wawrzaszek, Jason (1992)
Easton, Jack (2310) [B22]
2018 Kansas Open (2), 13.07.2018
B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
[Notes by Laurence Coker]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.dxc5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Bg4 last book move 8.b4 0–0–0+ 9.Kc2 Bf5+ 10.Kb2 Ng4 11.Be3 Nxe3 12.fxe3 g6 13.Bc4 Bg7 14.a3= Rd7 15.Re1 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.e4 Be6 18.Bb5 [18.Bxe6 better] 18...Rdd8 19.g3?! pawn on g3 becomes a target [19.h3 better] 19...h5 20.Re2 [20.Kc2 better 20...h4 21.Nd2 The knight on b1 gets to move. In the game this knight never moves from b1 and is eventually lost. 21...hxg3 22.hxg3 Bxg3 23.Rh1 Bf4 24.Nf3 (-0.77)] **20...Rd1 21.Ba4 Rh1 22.Bb3 Bxb3 23.Kxb3 h4!**



24.Rb2 hxg3 25.hxg3 R8h3 26.a4 Rxg3 27.Raa2 Rc1 28.Kc4 a6 29.b5 Bxc3 30.Rc2 Rxb1 31.c6? This is the first obvious mistake by white. [31.Rxc3 Better, though white is still losing 31...Rxc3+ 32.Kxc3 axb5 33.axb5 Rxb5 34.Kc4 Rb1 –+(-2.56)] 31...axb5+ 32.axb5 Rb4+ 33.Kc5 Rg5+ 34.Kb6 Rbxb5+ 35.Ka7 Bd4+ [35...Bd4+ 36.Rc5 Bxc5+ 37.Ka8 bxc6 38.Ra7 Rb8#] 0–1

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

Sep 15-16 2018 ARKANSAS SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Little Rock AR

5-SS; G/90;d5; Little Rock Church, 10701 Baseline Road, Little Rock, AR 72209. Open to players 50+ as of 9/15/18. Two sections: Open (1600+), Reserve. EF: $50 by 9/11, $60 at door. Entries to SWLR Chess Club at above address. Online entries: www.swlrchessclub.com REG: 8:00am-8:45am, Sep 15. $$Prizes (b/30): Open 450-200-100. Title to top AR resident. Reserve: 250-125-100. Inquiries: ryland@swlrchessclub.com

Sep 15-16 2018 2018 MISSOURI OPEN Columbia MO

5-SS; G/115;d5; $2500 Guaranteed Prize Fund. Parkade Center, 601 Business Loop 70 W, Columbia, MO 65203. 2-sections: OPEN: Overall Prizes: $400-1st $300-2nd, $200-3rd. Class Prizes: $150-1st in each: Master (2200-2399), X, A, B. RESERVE (U1600): Overall Prizes: $250-1st, $200-2nd, $150-3rd. Class Prizes: $100-1st in each C, D, E, U1000/Unr. Upset Prizes: $50 for highest upset in each section. EF: $50 by 9/8, $60 on site. Special Discounts Available. Reg.: Sat-9-9:45am. Rounds: Sat-10/2:30/7, Sun-9:30/2. Max one 1/2-pt bye if declared by Rd. 2. State Championship plaques to highest finishing Missouri resident in each section. MCA membership req'd, available on site from $5, OSA. Entries/Info: Thomas Rehmeier, 34 Aspen Pointe Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376. JCChess89@yahoo.com, 573-291-0852.

2018 TX Armed Forces and Military Veterans
Sep 29-30 2018 Open Championships Hillsboro TX

4-SS; G/60;d5; All players must have served in the US Military. Other states besides TX welcome. Hill College, 112 Lamar Drive, Hillsboro TX 76645. FREE ENTRY. Send email to armychess@aol.com no later than 19 Sep 2018 which must include your Military Branch and Status, and USCF ID number, City, State and Phone. USCF and TX Chess Assoc memberships required, available at site. Registration at door must show government-issued military ID. More Info, including Eligibility, Prizes, and Side Events: http://seriouschessplayers.com/scp_txafcc_2018.html Inquiries: Major Jim Hollingsworth (U.S. Army, ret). BIZNEZLDR@GMAIL.COM

Oct 27-28 2018 SPRINGFIELD OPEN and SCHOLASTIC Springfield MO

5-SS, G/90+30, Co-hosted by MSU and Joplin Chess Clubs. Plaster Student Union Rm#308/312, 1110 E. Madison St., Springfield, MO. 1 Section, Open: $160, $125, U1600 $100, U1400 $75, U1200 $50. 5.0 Bonus: $40. Prizes: b/25 non-scholastic entries. EF: $30 by 10/26, $40 at door. Scholastic (rating only) $15 by 10/26, $25 at door. Email entry accepted for lower rate. MCA membership required, OSA. Reg.: 8-9:30. Rounds: Sat 10, 2:30, 7; Sun 10:00, 2:30. Byes: One 1/2 point bye if requested before round 3.
Info: joplinchess.org, martin.stahl@joplinchess.org, 417-483-1554 .

OCF Tentative Dates for these OCF events this Fall. Details next month:

Oct 20 — Special One-day tournament in Chandler OK.

Nov 10 — Special Event World Championship Match Watch Party / Fun Tournament

Dec 1-2 — Steve Wharry Memorial — 5SS — Oklahoma City

By IM John Donaldson

First Steps: the Scandinavian
by Cyrus Lakdawala

(Everyman Chess 2017,
www.everymanchess.com,
224 pages, paperback, $24.95)

This is a first rate introduction to an opening whose reputation has been on the upswing the past decade.

While the Scandinavian will never replace 1…e5 or the Sicilian as Black's primary answer to 1.e4, it does have much to recommend it, particularly for those who like to play Caro-Kann type positions without having to face the Panov-Botvinnik Attack (1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4) or the Advance Variation (1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5).

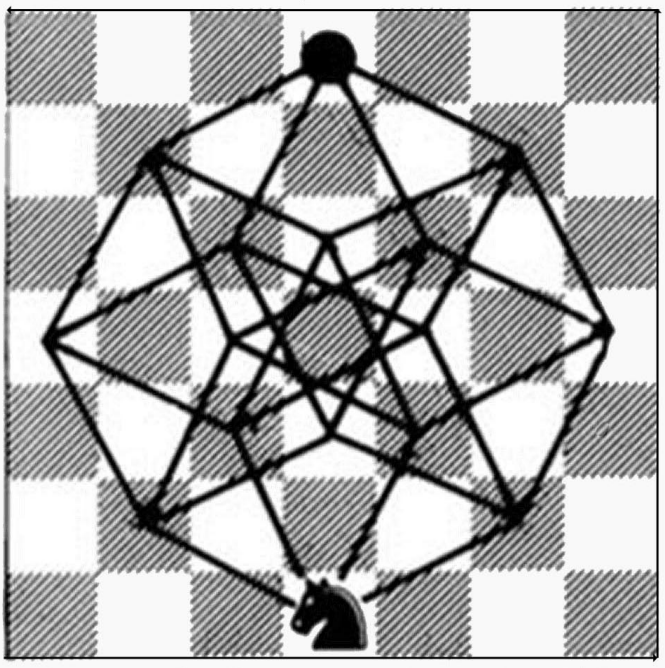
Lakdawala devotes the bulk of his book (177 pages) to the queen retreats 3…Qa5 and, particularly 3…Qd6, after 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3. He does not think highly about 3…Qd8 (used successfully by Magnus Carlsen) which he dismisses on account of 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 when he feels White's center and two bishops mean Black has overpaid for his solid position.

Black's has a lot of flexibility after 3…Qd6 with setups based on …c6, a6 and …b5 (both of which Lakdawala has played on more than one occasion) and …g6. All have been played by strong Grandmasters on numerous occasions with reasonable results. Club players will appreciate the forcing nature of 1.e4 d5, which leaves White with only one serious choice (2.exd5) as early as move two.

First Steps: the Scandinavian is arranged around 39 well-annotated games that feature plenty of explanatory prose that highlights the key ideas behind this underestimated opening.

Recommended.

The Knight's Star



There are 24 different ways the black knight can reach the black dot in four moves, but no way it can get there any faster. The beautiful, star-shaped symmetry of these paths enables us to catch a glimpse of the hidden mathematical order underlying the moves of the knight in somewhat the same way a scientist with a microscope sees the hidden structure of the material world.

— John Larkins, "The Workshop"